

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the Blue Star Service Banner was patented and designed in 1917, during the height of the First World War, by Army Captain Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry, who had two sons serving on the front lines;

Whereas the banner quickly became the symbol for a family member serving the Nation and families began proudly displaying these banners in their front windows during the First World War;

Whereas each Blue Star on the banner represents a family member serving in the Armed Services and symbolizes hope and pride;

Whereas beginning in 1918, the Blue Star would signify the living, and a smaller Gold Star would be placed on top of the Blue Star, forming a blue border, if the family member was killed or died while on active duty, to symbolize his or her sacrifice for the cause of freedom;

Whereas the placement of a Gold Star on top of a Blue Star recognizes that those who served together and came home, as well as their families, will always remember the sacrifice of those who died and honor their families;

Whereas the banners were displayed widely during the Second World War;

Whereas many of the banners displayed during the First and Second World Wars were hand-made by the mothers of those serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the legacy of the banner continued during the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars and other periods of conflict, as well as in times of peace;

Whereas the Blue Star Service Banner is the official banner authorized by law to be displayed in honor of a family member serving the United States, while the Gold Star may be displayed in honor of a family member who has made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation;

Whereas for over 85 years, families have proudly displayed the Blue Star Service Banner showing service men and women the honor and pride that is taken in their sacrifices for freedom;

Whereas the banner may be displayed by members of the immediate family of a loved one serving in the Armed Forces, including active duty service in a unit of the National Guard, Merchant Marine, or the Reserves;

Whereas the banner may be flown by families with a service member stationed either domestically or overseas;

Whereas the display of the banner in the front window of a home shows a family's pride in their loved one and is a reminder that preserving America's freedom demands great sacrifice; and

Whereas this reminder is especially timely during the current conflict with Iraq and the war on terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

1 (1) calls on all Americans to honor the men and
2 women of the United States Armed Forces and their
3 families;

4 (2) honors the men and women of the United
5 States Armed Forces and their families;

6 (3) encourages these families to proudly display
7 the Blue Star Service Banner or, if their loved one
8 has made the ultimate sacrifice, the Gold Star; and

9 (4) calls on the media to recognize the impor-
10 tance of the Blue Star Service Banner and its sym-
11 bolism of the devotion and service of the men and
12 women of the United States Armed Forces.

13 SEC. 2. The authority on which this resolution rests
14 is the authority of Congress to make all laws which shall
15 be necessary and proper as provided in Article I, section
16 8 of the United States Constitution.

Passed the Senate April 11, 2003.

Attest:

Secretary.

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 36

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the
Blue Star Service Banner and the Gold Star.